

The best measure of a one's honesty isn't his income tax return. It's the zero adjust on their bathroom scale. ~~Arthur C. Clarke



Good Tuesday evening,

U.S. stocks are heading into the final hour **modestly lower**, but the headline index declines understate some significant moves underneath the surface. The dominant story is **another surge in long-term Treasury yields**, with investors increasingly concerned about inflation, oil prices and additional Federal Reserve tightening. **Major indexes:** The Dow is down roughly **0.4%**, the S&P 500 about **0.2%**, and the Nasdaq around **0.2%** as of the latest readings. Earlier gains faded as Treasury yields climbed. Declining stocks are outnumbering advancers on both the NYSE and Nasdaq, showing weaker breadth than the headline indexes suggest. The **30-year Treasury yield reached roughly 5.62%**, its highest level since **2002**, while the **10-year reached about 5.29%**, around levels not seen since 2007. That's becoming a serious valuation headwind for equities. Markets are increasingly pricing the possibility that inflation pressures—particularly from energy—could force the Fed to tighten again. Futures currently imply roughly a **68% chance of another 25-bp Fed hike in October. Technology is holding up better** Tech and semiconductors have been relatively resilient despite the yield spike, helped by continuing AI enthusiasm. Investor attention today includes **Anthropic's IPO plans and potential \$2 trillion-plus valuation**, while chipmakers have rebounded. That resilience is important because broader participation is deteriorating. Only about **40.8% of S&P 500 companies are above their 200-day moving averages**, the lowest proportion since May 2025. In other words, the major indexes look healthier than the average stock underneath them.

Today's notable movers Fair Isaac (FICO): ● ~-27% — The standout loser following changes to the mortgage-credit-scoring framework that increase competition from VantageScore. Reuters CarMax (KMX): ● ~+5% — Shares rallied following stronger quarterly results. Reuters Walmart (WMT): ● ~-2% — One of the largest drags on the Dow today. MarketWatch Apple (AAPL): ● ~-1.5% — Also contributing meaningfully to the Dow's decline.



When you see “this” guy approaching your desk and you need to decide if you’re going to fake a heart attack or sniper crawl out the door so you can avoid a “quick” 48 minute “chat”:



Headlines from Tuesday, 29-Sep-26:

- Dow posts back-to-back losses as Treasury yields continue their ascent
 - ◊ Dow -0.25%
 - ◊ S&P 500 -0.16%
 - ◊ Nasdaq -0.09%

- ◇ Nasdaq Golden Dragon -1.55%
- U.S. 30-YEAR TREASURY YIELD REACHES 5.587%, HIGHEST SINCE MAY 2004
- Wells Fargo Investment Institute forecasts US Fed policy rate at 4.75%-5.00% by 2027-end vs prior forecast of 4.00%-4.25%.
 - Wells Fargo Investment Institute forecasts 10-Year US Treasury yield at 5.25%-5.75% by 2027-end vs prior forecast of 4.50%-5.00%.
 - Wells Fargo Investment Institute downgrades S&P 500 information technology sector to neutral from favorable.
 - WELLS FARGO INVESTMENT INSTITUTE CUTS GOLD'S 2027 YEAR-END TARGET RANGE TO \$5,200-\$5,400 PER OUNCE FROM PRIOR FORECAST OF \$5,400-\$5,600 PER OUNCE
- **GOLDMAN: STOCKS NEED BOND YIELDS TO FALL**
 - Goldman Sachs says the clearest path to further equity gains is relief in Treasury yields, with the U.S. 10-year reaching 5.25%, its highest since 2007.
 - Stocks have remained resilient, led by large-cap and AI-related names, but market breadth is weak.
 - Rate-sensitive sectors—including homebuilders, real estate, utilities and small caps—have suffered most.
 - Goldman remains overweight equities over a 12-month horizon.
- U.S. JOB OPENINGS FALL TO 7.08 MILLION
 - U.S. job openings fell to 7.079 million in August, down from a revised 7.335 million in July, according to the Labor Department's JOLTS report.
 - The job-openings rate slipped to 4.3% from 4.4%, while hiring edged higher to 5.192 million.
 - Quits were little changed at 3.066 million, while layoffs and discharges fell to 1.641 million.
- "Interest rates could go up for decades," per the Globe and Mail
- RISK APPETITE REMAINS CONCENTRATED IN LARGE-CAP STOCKS, CITI SAYS
- ECB Governing Council member ESCRIVA said policy rates have not yet entered restrictive territory.

The 30-year rate increased to 5.58% today, within 1 basis point of a level last seen in 2002 - Bloomberg

US 30-Year Yield Set to Close at Highest Since 2002



Source: Bloomberg

Bloom

New lows

- When the percentage of S&P 500 constituents registering 252-day lows spikes above the 7.7% threshold while the index itself hovers near 252-day highs, the [S&P 500] typically suffers negative forward returns and unfavorable win rates.

S&P 500 after _Risk-Off Composite - New Lows Spike SPX



Highs vs. lows –Bredth “stinks”—Duality Research

- Last week, "21 of the 28 net new lows came from Utilities, Staples, and Real Estate/

New highs

% of stocks at highs:

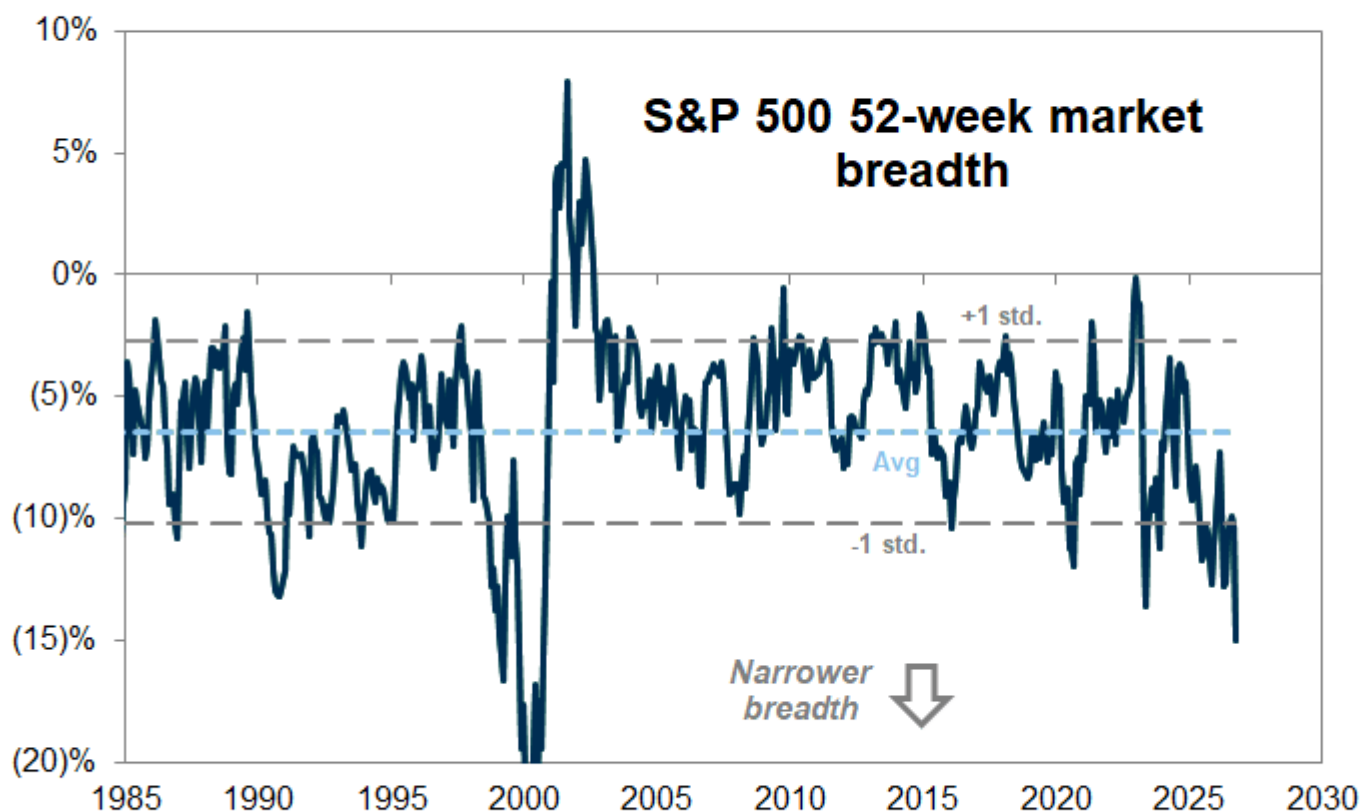
	4-week	8-week	12-week	24-week	52-week
Technology	29.7%	12.2%	9.5%	4.1%	2.7%
Comm. Services	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Industrials	9.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Energy	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Discretionary	4.3%	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Financials	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Materials	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Real Estate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Health Care	5.0%	3.3%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Staples	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Utilities	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	0.0%

SPX breadth -Goldman Sachs

- The S&P 500 trades just 1% below its record high reached in mid-Aug but the median S&P 500 stock trades 16% below its respective 52-wk high. GS:
- 'This gap has pushed our preferred measure of market breadth to its lowest level since the Dot-Com Bubble.

Exhibit 2: Market breadth has recently plunged

market breadth calculated as the difference between the aggregate index and median stock respective week highs



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

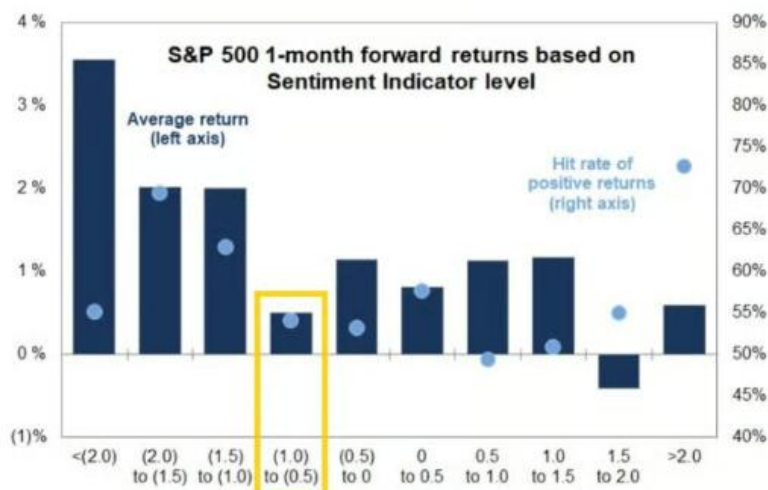
Goldman Sachs Sentiment Indicator

- Little changed last week at -0.91, easing back ever so slightly from the -0.92 the prior week, the least since August 2025.
- The current reading is the second worst bucket consistent with a one-month average return of around 0.3% since 2009 with a positive rate around 53%.

SENTIMENT INDICATOR



Source: Goldman Sachs Research
data since 2009



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Goldman Sachs via @neilksethi

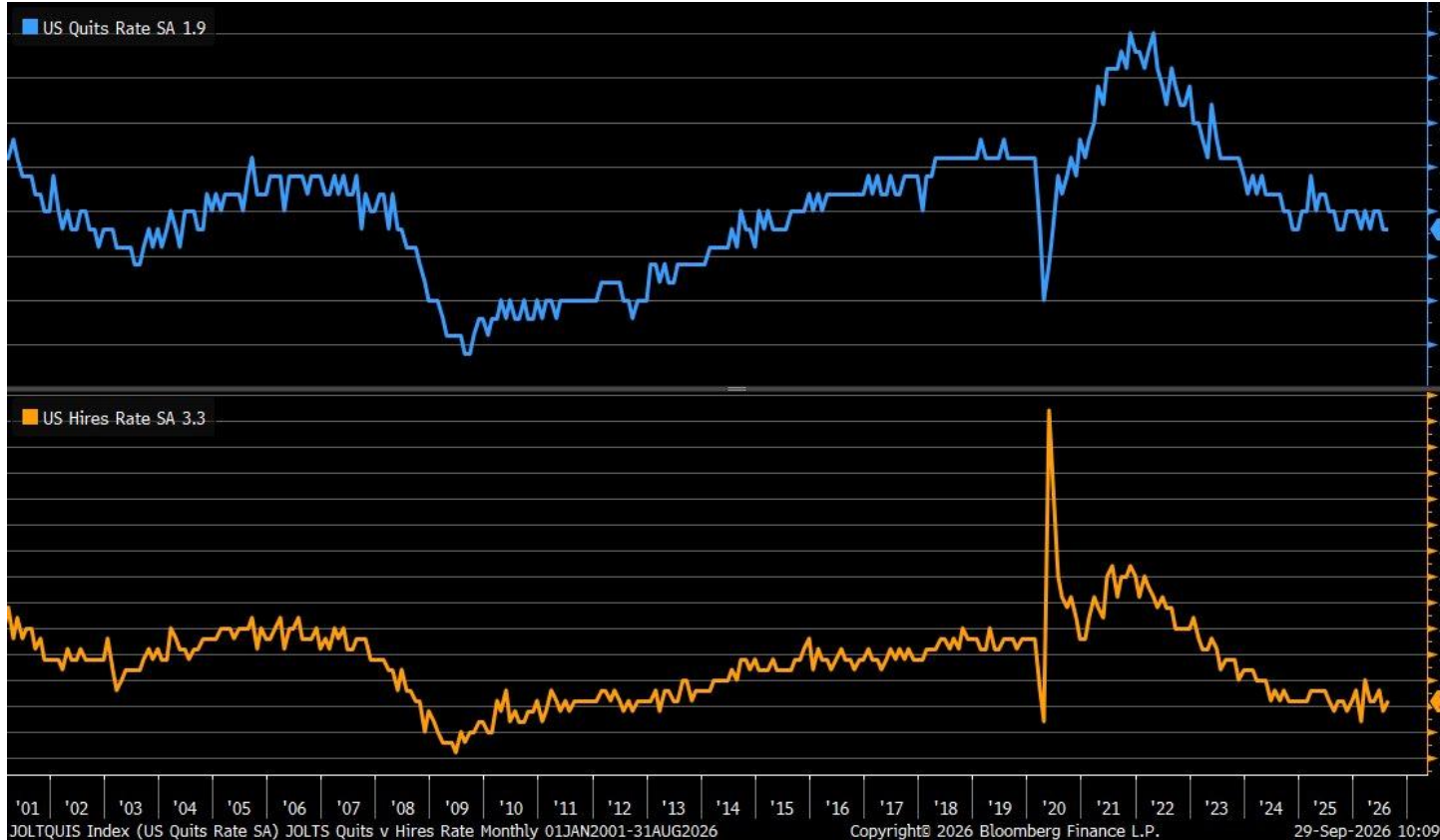
You are not alone;



Economic

- US AUG. JOB OPENINGS 7.079M; EST. 7.228M
 - ◆ JOLTS job openings August: 7.079 mln vs 7.225 mln expected
 - ◆ Prior July openings revised UP to 7.335 mln from 7.271 mln
 - ◆ Conference Board consumer confidence September: 81.9 vs 89.2 expected
 - • August confidence revised DOWN to 88.6 from 89.4

Record Plunge In Real-Estate Job Opening Sends JOLTS Sharply Lower, Hints At Ugly Jobs Report -ZeroHedge



When you've already given it your all and it's only Tuesday...



Cryptocurrency

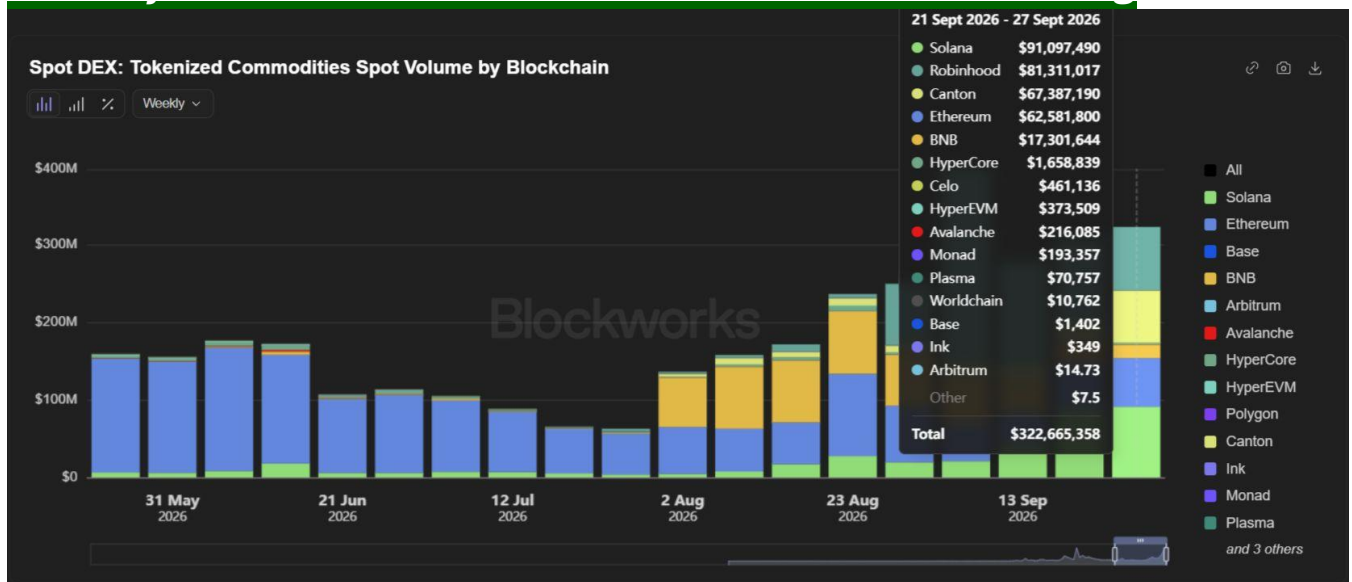
- \$MS BUILDS A CRYPTO LAB
 - ♦ Morgan Stanley adding a digital-asset lab to test stablecoins, tokenization, and DeFi
 - ♦ Sandboxed off core systems so the bank can poke the future without lighting the franchise on fire
 - ♦ Fits the existing push: ETFs, wallet talk, custody, staking ambitions
 - ♦ \$MS -0.24% because Wall Street does not reprice on a lab ribbon-cutting
- Cboe and S&P Dow Jones Indices explore launching tokenized options contracts.

Asset performance since the Iran war started:

- Bitcoin +24%
- Tech ETF +22%
- S&P 500 +11%
- inflation bonds -7%
- Gold -21%



Solana just took the lead in tokenized commodities trading



When you get an “urgent” email AND phone call, at the same time, but you are half way to your car, heading home;

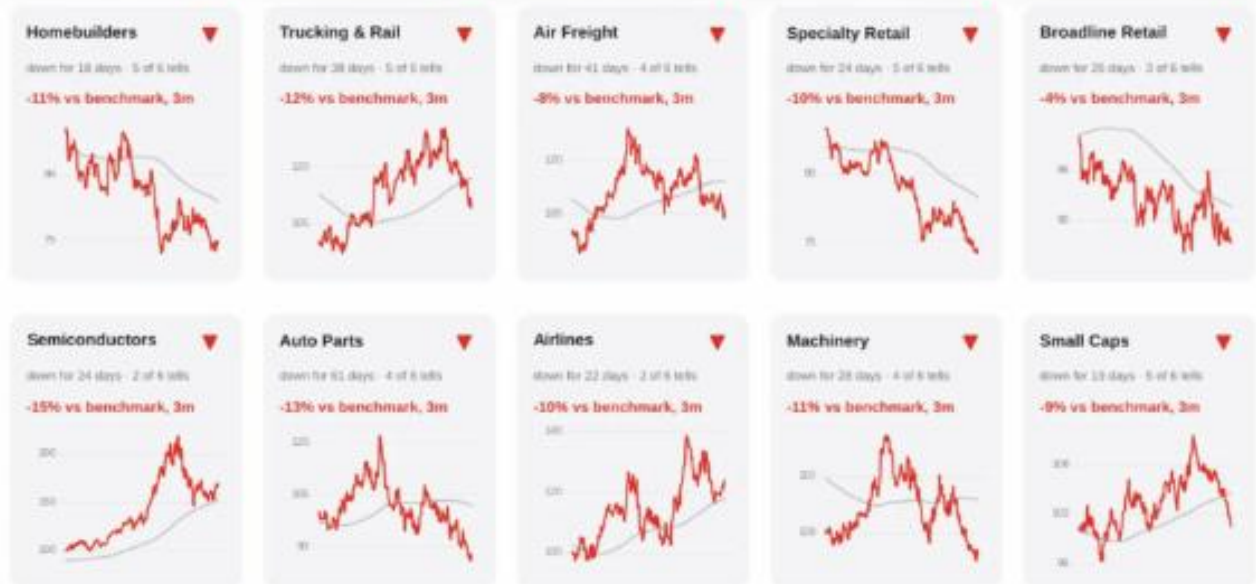


Early-warning groups -Pythian

- Almost every early warning cyclical group turning down, very few stocks participating in upside, lower % of stocks below 200DMA now than in March selloff

The Early-Warning Groups

each line = the group against the benchmark, 1 year - grey = its 200-day average - arrow = its own direction



How Many Stocks Take Part

5 years, same axis - top: the average S&P stock against the index - bottom: share of groups above their 200-day

The average S&P stock against the index, 5 years (start = 100) - falling = a few big names carry the index - 3 months -4.8%



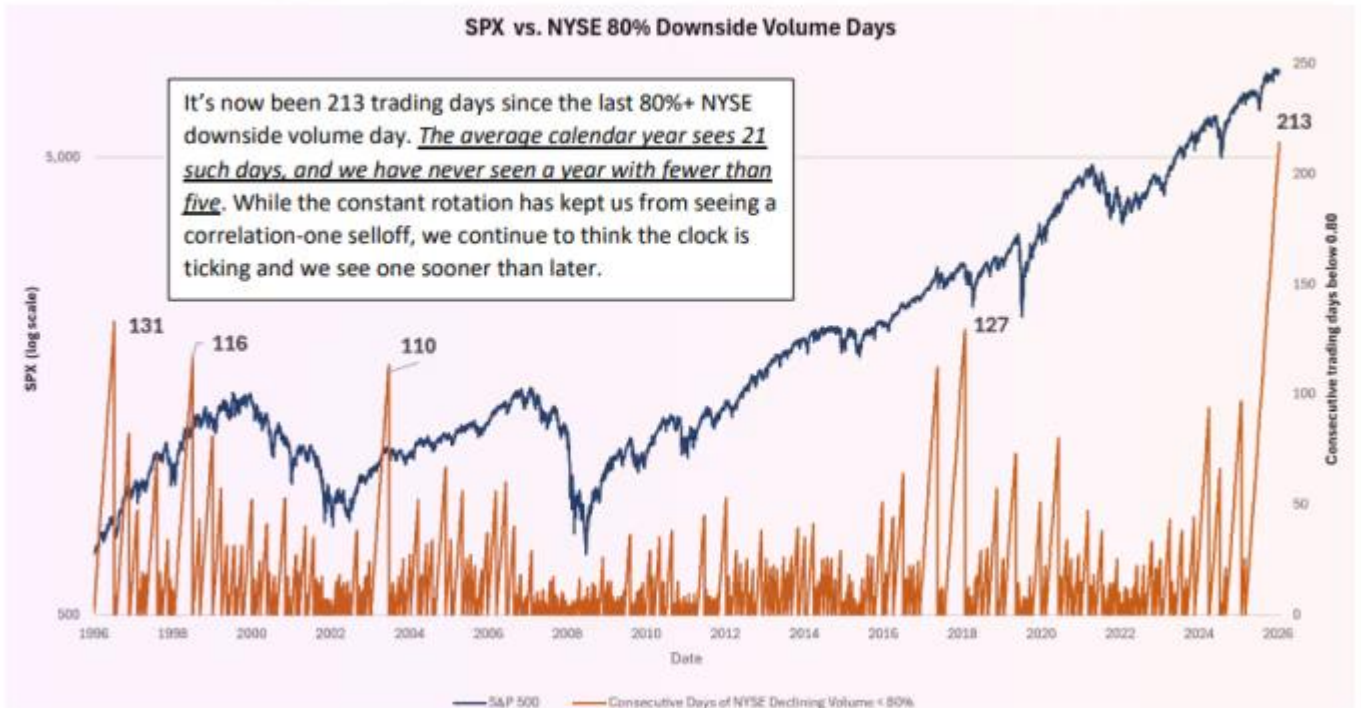
When someone CALLS you instead of sending an impersonal text message...



SPX vs. NYSE 80% downside volume days -Marketwatch

- While the constant rotation has kept us from seeing a correlation-one selloff, we continue to think the clock is ticking, and we see one sooner than later

Still No High Correlation Selloff



VIP Pricing

	LAST	CHANGE	% CHG		LAST	CHANGE	% CHG
.DJI	51,349.92 USD	-131.59	-0.26%	SLV	55.48 USD	+0.53	+0.96%
.IXIC	26,797.541 USD	-22.84	-0.09%	PSLV	19.78 USD	+0.04	+0.20%
.SPX	7,670.84 USD	-12.85	-0.17%	AG	18.08 USD	+0.13	+0.72%
@SP.1	7,735.50 USD	-11.25	-0.15%	SPCX	149.24 USD	+3.77	+2.59%
.VIX	16.06 USD	-0.01	-0.06%	LOFD	6.48 USD	-0.35	-5.12%
@CL.1	89.14 USD	-3.46	-3.74%	LOFF	16.56 USD	+0.81	+5.14%
@GC.1	4,209.40 USD	+41.00	+0.98%	SKHY	186.68 USD	+4.76	+2.62%
@SI.1	61.825 USD	+0.107	+0.17%	MU	1,065.08 USD	+11.10	+1.05%
@TY.1	104.4375 USD	-0.0469	-0.04%	SNDK	1,729.76 USD	+16.87	+0.98%
US10Y	5.253%	+0.011	+0.2098%	BITO	11.21 USD	+0.04	+0.36%
US30YFRM	7.58 USD	+0.08	+1.07%	AA	41.97 USD	-0.28	-0.66%
BTC.CM=	83,492.40 USD	+75.89	+0.09%	UNH	374.94 USD	-2.89	-0.76%
ETC.BF=	9.10 USD	-0.06	-0.71%	AI	10.34 USD	-0.07	-0.67%
CAD=	1.4188	+0.0017	+0.12%	LLY	1,184.63 USD	-0.15	-0.01%
EUR=	1.1336	-0.0034	-0.299%	RH	122.21 USD	+0.13	+0.11%
GBP=	1.3225	-0.0027	-0.2037%	COIN	190.02 USD	-1.77	-0.92%
JPY=	157.33	-0.02	-0.0127%	CRK	12.51 USD	-0.18	-1.42%
AAPL	329.40 USD	-9.00	-2.66%	CVX	204.38 USD	-1.99	-0.96%
AMZN	246.67 USD	+0.52	+0.21%	GLW	158.71 USD	+7.12	+4.70%
BRK.B	502.35 USD	-0.74	-0.15%	SBUX	95.43 USD	+0.16	+0.17%
DEFT	0.49 USD	-0.0015	-0.3052%	MNTN	10.37 USD	+0.18	+1.77%
TSLA	352.84 USD	-4.61	-1.29%	HIMS	28.70 USD	-0.08	-0.28%
META	738.96 USD	+23.34	+3.26%	RIOT	21.39 USD	-0.23	-1.06%
MSFT	508.96 USD	-0.26	-0.05%	DEFI			
GOOGL	340.92 USD	-1.83	-0.53%	XRPI	8.06 USD	+0.06	+0.75%
NVDA	227.21 USD	-1.65	-0.72%	ASTS	59.40 USD	-1.60	-2.62%
QQQ	737.93 USD	+1.40	+0.19%	BRZE	23.15 USD	-0.02	-0.09%
NFLX	70.30 USD	+1.07	+1.55%	DJT	9.10 USD	-0.02	-0.22%
UVXY	16.99 USD	-0.09	-0.53%	GME	23.76 USD	-0.20	-0.83%
XOM	161.35 USD	-1.17	-0.72%	BA	187.68 USD	+3.29	+1.78%

RECAP 9/29 Unusual Puts:

\$LW Nov 35 P
\$BAC Oct02 54 P
\$LYFT Mar 13 P
\$RF Jan-28 20 P
\$WFC Oct02 80 P
\$CRWV Oct23 76 P
\$FLG Jan-28 10 P
\$CMG Nov 32.5 P
\$TLT May 75 P
\$NKE Oct 35 P
\$VFC Feb 11 P
\$SLS Jan 10 P

RECAP 9/29 Unusual Calls:

\$HIMS Oct02 31 C
\$VFC Oct 14.5 C
\$XP Jan 27 C
\$XP Nov 22 C
\$GFL Nov 45/50 C Spd
\$CRWV Jan-28 200 C
\$JBLU Mar 6 C
\$YELP Oct 20 C
\$NU Nov 14 C
\$BIRK Oct 35 C
\$CPNG Jan 17 C

RECAP 9/29 -Neg Comments:

\$TFC - Citrini
\$INSE - BWS Financial
\$FICO - Huber Research
\$SANG - TD Securities

RECAP 9/29 Chatter:

\$PWP + \$PIPR \$AAPL
? Lean Overhaul
\$ORCL + OpenAI \$70B Rev
\$NEOG - FDA Warn
\$RDDT - \$META
Forum app
\$XERS + Lundbeck \$Northern Star =
\$GFI \$TTD
-\$AAPL OS Blocking

Coin		Price	1h	24h	7d
 Bitcoin BTC	Buy	\$83,554.36	▼ 0.1%	▼ 0.5%	▼ 3.4%
 Ethereum ETH	Buy	\$2,689.75	▼ 0.3%	▼ 0.3%	▼ 2.3%
 Tether USDT		\$0.9997	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%
 BNB BNB	Buy	\$755.75	▲ 0.0%	▼ 2.0%	▼ 4.2%
 XRP XRP	Buy	\$1.50	▼ 0.4%	▼ 1.2%	▼ 5.6%
 USDC USDC		\$0.9999	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%	▲ 0.0%
 Solana SOL	Buy	\$118.88	▼ 0.4%	▼ 1.0%	▲ 0.5%
 TRON TRX	Buy	\$0.3351	▼ 0.1%	▼ 0.4%	▼ 1.9%
 Zcash ZEC	Buy	\$1,394.31	▼ 2.5%	▼ 8.0%	▼ 8.5%
 Figure Heloc FIGR_HELOC	Buy	\$1.00	▲ 0.0%	▼ 5.4%	▼ 3.9%

Symbol	Price~	Exp Date	Type	Strike	Moneyness	Bid	Latest	Ask	Volume	Open
TSLA	352.73	09/30/26 (1)	Call	352.50	+0.40%	3.30	3.35	3.35	36,395	
ARM	295.93	01/15/27 (108)	Put	360.00	+21.65%	85.95	86.01	87.05	15,006	
TSLA	352.73	09/30/26 (1)	Call	355.00	-0.31%	2.21	2.21	2.23	78,201	
AAPL	330.36	09/30/26 (1)	Call	330.00	+0.18%	2.11	2.12	2.14	18,550	
VFC	14.39	10/16/26 (17)	Call	14.50	-0.69%	0.53	0.55	0.57	10,269	
SIRI	25.77	11/20/26 (52)	Put	23.00	-10.40%	0.38	0.41	0.43	5,640	
AGNC	9.46	01/19/29 (843)	Call	8.00	+14.80%	1.44	1.40	1.68	5,149	
SG	8.89	11/20/26 (52)	Call	8.00	+8.88%	1.55	1.55	1.70	7,163	
BTDR	10.98	03/19/27 (171)	Put	6.00	-45.55%	0.45	0.50	0.55	5,004	
AAPL	330.36	09/30/26 (1)	Call	337.50	-2.08%	0.16	0.16	0.17	48,518	1
ONDS	7.51	01/19/29 (843)	Call	5.00	+33.77%	4.45	4.55	4.65	7,123	
META	732.80	09/30/26 (1)	Call	732.50	+0.05%	7.50	7.51	7.65	8,539	
AAPL	330.36	09/30/26 (1)	Call	335.00	-1.33%	0.42	0.42	0.43	66,287	1
TSLA	352.73	09/30/26 (1)	Call	347.50	+1.81%	6.50	6.63	6.65	3,594	
AMD	607.98	09/30/26 (1)	Put	612.50	+0.52%	8.65	8.90	8.90	4,451	
TSLA	352.73	09/30/26 (1)	Put	352.50	-0.40%	2.75	2.78	2.78	75,398	2
CRWV	85.76	10/23/26 (24)	Put	76.00	-11.66%	2.03	2.08	2.18	5,442	
VALE	13.32	11/20/26 (52)	Put	12.00	-10.04%	0.23	0.27	0.25	3,056	
OWL	9.20	01/19/29 (843)	Put	8.00	-13.04%	1.80	1.90	2.00	6,065	
INTC	116.00	10/09/26 (10)	Call	122.00	-5.37%	2.68	2.76	2.75	8,564	
TSLA	352.73	09/30/26 (1)	Call	357.50	-1.01%	1.40	1.42	1.42	40,307	1

Cheers,

-NOD-

Nathaniel Orr-Depner

<https://www.stickytrades.com/nodlive/>